‘My art is the way that I reestablish the bonds that tie me to the Universe.’
-Ana Mendieta

‘In the beginner’s mind there are many possibilities, in the expert’s mind there are few.’
-Shunryu Suzuki

ASTU 4450
Topics: Sound//Space//Ritual//Action
Tuesdays, Thursdays 2-4:50pm
Curry 316
Martin Back
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DESCRIPTION
This studio course will examine various permutations and combinations of sound, space, ritual and action as aesthetic pretexts for how artists might use these phenomena in their practice. Focusing on site-specific sound, performance, architecture, theater, and interdisciplinary strategies students
will create original and critically rigorous art works that engage with the topical themes and materials presented in the course in an innovative, surprising and unique manner.

EXPECTATIONS
- Come to class prepared and on time with all materials you need to work.
- Turn in assignments according to deadline. Late assignments are not accepted.
- Participate consistently and thoughtfully in all class discussions and critiques (particularly those critiques involving art that is not your own).
- Respect your peers’ opinions, beliefs, orientations, and histories.
- Comport yourself with civility and respect during all critiques and discussions.
- Think about what you are doing and why you are doing it.
- Research everything ALL THE TIME!
- Make art ALL THE TIME!
- Attempt to explore difficult themes and/or concepts in your work; this will be reflected in your grades.
- Use both the Internet AND the library as resources when researching art and artists.
- Gain the support and camaraderie of your fellow students and engage in collaboration when it is warranted.

COURSE STRUCTURE
Each course of each week will variously consist of reading discussions, listening sessions, viewing videos, considering objects, group exercises/art-making, presentations by visiting artists and paper presentations. Students will be evaluated on the basis of their comprehension of course materials, attendance and preparation, critical engagement with ideas in the course, and the ability to synthesize key issues developed throughout the semester.

PROJECTS
1. Sound and Space
2. Ritual
3. Action
4. Final Project
REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Journal or sketchbook
- External hard drive 500 GB or greater
- Flash drive 16 GB or greater
- SD card 8 GB or greater
- The following items should be acquired by Feb. 9th:
  2X 741 operational amplifier
  2X 500k potentiometers
  2X Germanium Diode
  1X ¼" female mono jack
  2X 9v Battery snaps
  2X 9v Battery
  1X small circuit board
  1X small enclosure (empty cigar boxes are great)
- Reading assignments will be provided in an electronic format as needed.
- Willingness to experiment and emerge from your aesthetic and social comfort zone.

GRADING

Students will be evaluated on the basis of completed projects (50%), attendance (20%) and participation (30%).
Each project = 12.5 pts.
Attendance: 20 pts.
Participation: 30 pts.
100 Points Possible

A= Superior. The grade of A indicates that work is superlative and surpasses expectations for the assignment, attendance is exemplary and the student participates in discussions in a manner that is respectful toward fellow students and which contributes to productive class discussions.

B= Above Average. The grade of B indicates that work is extraordinary and goes beyond the minimal requirements of an assignment. Attendance and participation are exemplary.

C= Average. The grade of C indicates that work is completed as assigned and submitted by deadline. Attendance and participation are lackluster.

D= Below Average. The grade of D indicates that work is completed, but is not completed as assigned. Attendance and participation are poor.
F= Fail. The grade F indicates that work is not completed as assigned according to deadline and that attendance and participation are minimal.

ATTENDANCE
You are allowed only THREE unexcused absences. After the FOURTH absence your grade will drop a full letter for each subsequent absence. If you miss class it is your responsibility to acquire the information you missed on the day you were absent. If you are aware that you will be absent prior to the date of an absence you must notify me. Excused absences are granted in the case of illness accompanied by a doctor’s note and documented personal and/or family emergency. Three tardies (10 min. after class begins) will result in one absence.

NEW MEDIA ART MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the New Media Art program at the University of North Texas is to cultivate new methods of performance and media art practices in contemporary art. Through creative and critical inquiry, we emphasize artistic excellence, interdisciplinary learning, socially engaged practices, and welcome collaboration.

We see our mission as the study and practice of visual culture, past and present, in order to understand how the convergence of performance, storytelling, and media can illuminate and expand, or conceal and limit the worlds they represent. Finally, we recognize that example is the best teacher and strive through our own creative research to embody the values we wish to impart. Pursuing research and creative opportunities, both locally and internationally, we draw upon and engage with the current critical discourse around Media and Performance Art.

This mission is fulfilled:

• Through innovative active learning curricula that contributes toward and engages with current practices and theoretical structures
• By continually investigating emerging media and technologies, as well as traditional approaches, as a way to open new channels of research and practice
• Through a belief that diversity—in background, status, culture, and viewpoint—is essential to a vital and creative community
• By expecting academic excellence as a fundamental part of a professional education in the visual arts
• Through a commitment toward rich engagement within our communities through community based learning experiences and service related activities
• By fostering an intellectual community within which experimentation is key

UNT PLAGIARISM POLICY
Plagiarism is a serious violation of UNT’s code of academic conduct. The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Policy Manual, Graduate Catalog, and Undergraduate Catalog explain specific policies, penalties, and the appeals process. The UNT Policy on Academic Misconduct provides definitions of plagiarism and states that the instructor can assign penalties for violations of the policy.

The term plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Plagiarism also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

The UNT policy further states that all students: are responsible for making themselves aware of the definitions and implications of academic misconduct. For further information on academic misconduct, penalties and appeal procedures, the student should refer to the "Code of Student Conduct and Discipline."

Penalties are assigned by instructors and can range from reducing the grade for a test or assignment to revoking an academic degree already granted.

DISABILITY STATEMENT
The College of Visual Art and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those
with disabilities. In Keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course.

If you have a disability it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at www.unt.edu/oda, and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You may also call the ODA at 940.565.4323.

**COURSE RISK FACTOR**

This course recognizes that there are certain risks inextricably associated with certain activities within the lab, and categories are assigned to those risk factors. Working with computers in a lab environment such as this class is considered a category 2 risk. I ask every student to be especially mindful of these risks. Be concerned for your safety and the safety of those around you, specifically as it relates to how you use your computer equipment.

**BUILDING EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

In case of an emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of a tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather related severity, please go to the nearest hallway or room on your floor without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your faculty and act accordingly.
Each University of North Texas student is entitled to certain rights associated with higher education institutions. See www.unt.edu/csrr for further information. The faculty retains the right to change the syllabus with or without notice.

INVENTORY

Subject of Inquiry #1 Sound and Space: Jan 17-Feb 14
   Listening: Alvin Lucier, Steve Peters, Annea Lockwood, Charlemagne Palestine + more

   Doing: Reverberance Study, Site Specific Sound Work, Drone Music as the Activation of Architecture

Subject of Inquiry #2 Ritual: Feb 16-Mar 23
   Considering: Japanese Tea Ceremony, Haitian Voodoo via Maya Deren, Ana Mendieta

   Doing: Designing Ritual, Ritual Art + Documentation

Subject of Inquiry #3 Action: March 25-Apr 18
   Understanding: Chain Reactions, Vito Acconci, Yoko Ono, Philip Corner, Trompe L’Oeil, Walter DeMaria and Meaningless Work, Henry Flynt and Brend

   Doing: Street Theater, Meaningless Work, Brend, Sculpture Experimental Music, New Ontologies for Coporeal Art Making

Subject of Inquiry #4 ? (Synthesis) April 20-May 4
   Doing: Final Project

Project Deadlines
   Feb 14    Sound and Space
   Mar 23    Ritual
   April 18  Action
   May 2     Final Project

Other Deadlines
May 4

Wrap Up and submission of comprehensive USB portfolio